

WASHINGTON- Today Congressman Terry honored four local African Americans for their contributions to the Omaha community at a ceremony at Big Mama's Kitchen. Congressman Terry will also honor these individuals on Capitol Hill later this month. **"Omaha is home hundreds of African-Americans who have made important contributions to our city and our nation," said Congressman Terry. "This month I am honored to say thank you to four extraordinary individuals who have committed their lives to the betterment of African-Americans. Their work in our community has made a difference in thousands of people, especially our youth."**

The four outstanding individuals are:

Frank Hayes

Mr. Hayes is a CPA in Omaha, NE. He owns a minority owned business that deals with individual's taxes, company and corporate taxes. He began his business in 1983 and now has more than 20 employees serving more than 100 clients in 15 states. Mr. Hayes was the founding member and first president of the 100 Black Men organization, which is dedicated to improving the lives of youth. Mr. Hayes has conducted workshops in North Omaha to help minorities start their own business. He is currently Executive Vice President for finance for the 100 Black Men of America national board of directors.

Phyllis Hicks

In 1967 Phyllis co-founded the Salem, Stepping Drill Team. She continues to be a volunteer and chief fundraiser for this youth group. Many of her former participants have gone on to become college graduates with successful careers. Through her outreach she has helped youth overcome many barriers especially discrimination. Phyllis is active in NAACP, Black Women's Council, Urban League, State Certified Rotary and Salem Baptist Church Youth Advisory. Phyllis currently serves as Marketing Director for the Omaha Star newspaper, Nebraska's largest African-American newspaper.

Mary J. Clinkscale, PhD

Dr. C as she is commonly referred to is the Administrator of the Greater Beth-el temple where she has planned, produced and directed more than 250 theatrical productions and presentations. Her work led to the formation of Growing and Building Together (GBT) Academy of the Arts. The GBT Children's Academy located at 52

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and Hamilton in Omaha provides a unique learning environment with a diverse curriculum that allows parents, teachers and children to work together.

Herbert C. Rhodes, PhD

Herb has been a life-long member of the Omaha business community. He was featured in a 1975 issue of Ebony Magazine article, which highlighted successful African Americans who were leading the way in the business industry. During his 36-year tenure at AT&T he served as Senior Manager of AT&T where he specialized in risk management for worldwide commercial metals.

He is founder and President of American Harvest Company, which was founded in 1979. He continues to be a role model for success as the founder and President of the American Harvest Company and Senior Trader for AHT Capital Management Hedge Fund. Herb is a member of the Copper Club, the American Copper Association and Nebraska Cattlemen Association. He also serves as Secretary for the St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church, President of a mens social club, Work in Progress and is a member of the NAACP. He has been a member of the Nebraska Cattlemen since 2008 and Director of Marketing and Commerce for the Nebraska Cattlemen. He is the proud father of four children and two grandchildren.

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Congressman Terry would like to thank members of the Black History Selection Committee for their time and service in nominating such exceptional individuals. Members of the committee:

Ben Gray

Margarita Washington

Preston Love Jr

Rudy Smith

Richard Bell

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